



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service

## Fact Sheet

### *WTO and Agriculture What's at Stake for Maryland?*

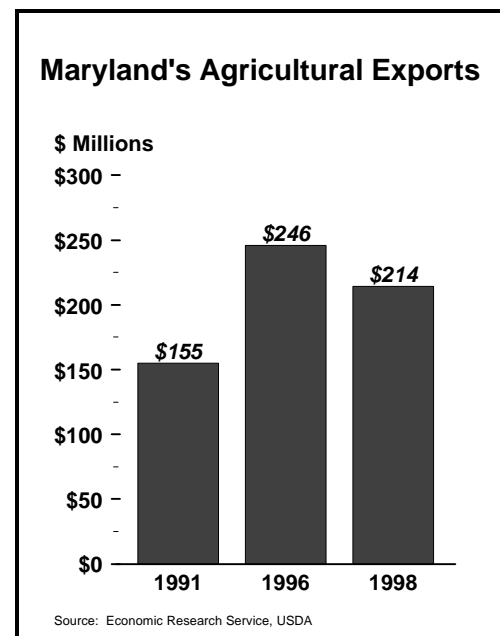
#### October 1999

Maryland's agricultural goods are exported worldwide. In 1998, the state's farm cash receipts totaled \$1.5 billion, and the value of its agricultural exports was estimated at \$214 million. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while creating employment both on and off the farm in food processing, transportation, and manufacturing. Exports are increasingly important to Maryland's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports has risen from 12 percent to 14 percent since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # poultry and products -- \$83 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$52 million
- # feed grains and products -- \$26 million
- # vegetables -- \$15 million
- # tobacco leaf -- \$11 million

World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Maryland's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.



#### Maryland Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # With a large portion of its farm receipts coming from broiler production, Maryland benefits under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20-percent tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access for poultry meat equal to 8.5 percent of domestic consumption (roughly 30,000 tons in 1996). The Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # As a producer of soybeans, Maryland benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan reduces its tariffs on soybean oil 36 percent by 2000.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, the EU will reduce tariffs on tobacco and products by 20-50 percent; Japan is reducing tariffs and agreed to bind its duty rate at zero for tobacco; and Argentina, Brazil, Turkey, and others will reduce import duties.